

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 5, 8, 16, 23, 31, 32, 33 and 40 have been amended, and claims 4, 6, 7, 15, 22, 30, 39 and 47 have been canceled.

#### **Claim Objections**

The Examiner noted that claims 7, 15, 22, 30, 39, 47 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The independent claims have been amended to include the allowable subject matter. All of the claims should thus be in condition for allowance.

#### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-14, 16-21, 23-29, 31-38, 40-46 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Dresevic et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,624,828). The claims are allowable in view of the comments above.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

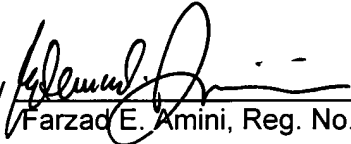
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If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (323) 654-1752. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

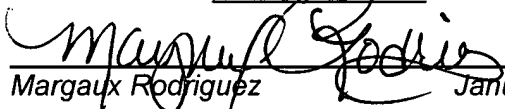
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on January 4, 2005.

  
Margaux Rodriguez January 4, 2005